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THE CONDOR

An Illustrated Magazine
of Western Ornithology

Publish Bi-Monthly by the Cooper Ornithological Club of California.

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EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The first expedition for 1910 to take the field in the interest of the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, left on February 13. The party is headed by Mr. J. Grinnell, who is assisted by Messrs. F. Stephens, J. Dixon and H. Jones; the field of their endeavors is the valley of the Colorado River, between Needles and Yuma. After a short stay at Needles boats were procured, and the party started down the stream, the plan being to collect at intervals on both sides of the river; proceeding by easy stages to Yuma, which will be reached about May 15. The same trip was made by Dr. Elliott Coues, years ago, when the country was new and unknown; and it is decidedly suggestive to note that the list of birds he saw along the river includes several species that have not since been observed in Arizona—to such an extent has this region been neglected by naturalists. The present expedition promises much in the way of results.

We are in receipt of an announcement of the organization in New York City, on December 8, 1909, of the American Bird Banding Association, the object of which is "the banding of wild birds and the recording of accurate data on their movements." The migrations of birds are thus studied by the placing of numbered, address, metal bands upon their legs,

a record being kept of the same. This method of study, tho new in this country, has been pursued in Europe for some time. It promises interesting results, and there are doubtless many Cooper Club members who will be desirous of assisting in the work. Full information may be procured from the president of the society, Dr. Leon J. Cole, Peabody Museum, New Haven, Connecticut.

John Farwell Ferry, member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, died at Chicago, Illinois, February 11, 1910, of acute pneumonia. Mr. Ferry was born on October 12, 1877 and graduated from Yale in 1901. In his preparatory work at Andover, Massachusetts, he was one of the most popular young men in the school. His strong Christian principles and his thoro work as Secretary of the Y. M. C. A., and Editor of the school paper at Andover, are still spoken of by the officers of that institution.

Mr. Ferry was fast winning distinction as an ornithologist. He had made numerous expeditions, in Arizona, and, for the United States Biological Survey, in the Coast Ranges of California. His latest and most notable trips were several expeditions to Central and South America, made in the interest of the Field Museum, of Chicago. His last trip was to some of the islands of the Caribbean Sea, of which little or nothing was known ornithologically, and he obtained an immense number of specimens, among which were several species and varieties new to science. The results of this trip are embodied in a report by C. B. Cory on the Birds of the Leeward Islands of the Caribbean Sea, (Field Mus. Pub. no. 137, Orn. Series, Vol. 1, no. 5).

His sterling qualities of heart and mind endeared him to all his friends and acquaintances. During my association with Mr. Ferry for twenty years, I have never heard him say a depreciating word against any man no matter how great an injustice may have been done him. Men of this splendid character are rare and it behooves us to take advantage of their lives as an example for future guidance.—F. M. W.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

THE HOME-LIFE OF A GOLDEN EAGLE. BY H. B. MACPHERSON. With thirty-two mounted plates. London, 1909, pp. 1-45.

The account here given of the life of a young eagle, during the eleven weeks between its birth and the time of its departure from the nest, is one of greatest interest. The writer's unusual opportunities for photography and study were evidently taken advantage of